THE KNIGHT'S QUILL

ISSUE 1 - 29/10/24

CLUB CULTURE AT CASTLE HILL HIGH

Tristan Hincapie - Local Gardener

A couple months ago, a thought emerged in the back of my mind. Where is the club culture at Castle Hill High School? As I see it, a club is more than just a place for people to share common interests, it's a place where connections are made and a sense of belonging is discovered. I mean, sure, we have a few clubs - the chess club, the movie club, the board games club, the reading club - and don't get me wrong, they're great. But why are they all that we have at this school? Why isn't there more?

Imagine a school with dozens of clubs, each run by students passionate about their interests. Imagine a place where friendships are developed, connections are built, and people can freely express and share what they love. This is the kind of place that we should strive to be - where it is commonplace for students to start and run clubs focused on the things that they love.

We need to take the steps to develop this club culture at our school. As a member of the newspaper club, my fellow members and I have begun to take these steps in this direction. We want to create a thriving club culture at this school.

We urge anyone who reads this article and loves the idea of contributing to a student-voice newspaper to join us. And if you see this message and have an idea for one, don't be afraid to start or join a club.

What we need at Castle Hill High is a revival. A revival of sociality, friendships, and community. At the heart of this revival are clubs. Places that you can go to cultivate a sense of belonging. Places where you can express your passions and share your interests. Places where you can build long-lasting connections and friendships. Together, we can create an environment where everyone has a place that they belong.

Join us in this revival.

IS BRISBANE 2032 THE END OF THE OLYMPICS?

Ishaan Tata - Cricket Fan

After more than a decade of increasingly risky Olympics, with the riots in Mexico City in '68 and the killing and capturing of Israeli athletes in Munich in '72, Los Angeles was able to secure the 1984 Olympics for themselves with no opposition.

But only under one condition – that they would not build any new infrastructure for the event. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) agreed out of desperation and it was a success. The minimal spending for new venues led to LA '84 being one of the only Olympics ever to make a profit and this set the benchmark for future hosts.

11 cities bidded for the '04 Olympics under this new cost-effective model before it ended up in the hands of Athens. The IOC took this growth as an opportunity to expand and within 10 Olympics from Los Angeles to Paris, the number of sports dramatically increased from 21 to 32. Yes, inclusion and sporting spirit are the pillars of the Olympics at its core, but the requirement for new infrastructure to facilitate the influx of athletes and its financial burden would prove to be too exploitative of the IOC to the host cities. The 2016 Rio Olympics were a whopping 352% over budget and the 2024 Paris Olympics had a budget of $4.4 billion US dollars, with Fox Business reporting that the cost will be closer to $9 billion. The 2000 Olympics in Sydney required the building of 15 new sporting venues and over 10,000 people's worth of housing. Athens built 22 new venues for the 2004 Olympics. Beijing '08 built 12. As a result of this, the amount of bidders has been declining. There were 7 bidders for 2016, 6 for 2020 and only 2 for 2024 and 2028 after Hamburg, Budapest and Rome withdrew following political backlash. This led to, out of desperation and for the first time in history, two games being awarded during one IOC meeting, with Paris receiving 2024 and LA receiving 2028.

Finally, we reach Brisbane '32. Not one city bid against Brisbane for the '32 Olympics. And with the IOC planning to introduce even more events, what's to say that Brisbane will not also be a failure? Will Brisbane be able to afford being the turning point that LA was in 1984? We won't know until the Games.

There is some hope for 2036 however. Indonesia wishes to flaunt its new capital city of Nusantra by hosting. India is supposedly bidding but has yet to announce a city. Santiago and Istanbul have also expressed interest. Though 4 bidders is nowhere near the numbers seen in 2004, it may be a step in the right direction for the Olympics. Or Brisbane might set such a poor precedent that no city will be interested in hosting the Olympics ever again.

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH MR BOGGON

Amal Perera - Interviewer Extraordinaire

Matthew Boggon is the Teacher Librarian at Castle Hill High School, having commenced at the start of 2023. He has taught an array of subjects previously, including History and Geography. Prior to teaching, Matthew held an avid interest in history, working in museums and on archaeological sites. He is featured below in our exclusive interview as we explore the worlds of some of our most remarkable teachers.

Will you shave your head for charity?
"Under no circumstances will I ever shave my head for charity, my hair is my personality. If I was to shave my head I would not have a personality."

What concealer do you use?
"I think that when I wake up in the morning I don't use any kind of makeup concealer. I just conceal the emotions I have within everytime I come to school."

What celebrity do you think you look the most like?
"I get quite a few. I get tame impala quite often, I get Kurt Cobain every now and then, I get Jesus quite often, but I'm probably the wrong skin colour to say Jesus, so I think um, I think my final answer is going to have to be Brad Pitt."

In a zombie apocalypse, you see Miss Kenna, Miss King and Miss Dane before you. They've all been bitten. You have one antidote. Who do you save and why?
"Alright so I'm in a zombie apocalypse meaning I need to survive, so sustenance is important, so I'm gonna save Miss Dane, because I know that she is a fantastic cook, and I know that she will at least make my final days pleasant with food."

Do you have any interesting hobbies that most people wouldn't know about?
"Interesting hobbies... I skateboard a lot. That's something that I think is fairly uncommon because teachers are uncool, but I love skateboarding, I skateboard a lot. And obviously being the librarian I do read a lot as well.

What is your favourite movie and why?
"Ah my favourite movie… I'm gonna have to say… hold on this is a big question Amal. Uh, Memories of Murder. It's an old Korean film made by the same guy that made Parasite, and it's kinda like a thriller, where they try to track down the true story of the serial killer, and then it sorta shows through all of the institutional wrongs whilst also giving you a good fright. And I love scary movies."

If you didn't become a teacher, where do you think you'd be?
"There's a few ways I would've gone. Obviously, I was an archeologist before I was a teacher, I'd probably still be doing that. I think archeology work for me was something that I loved doing and something that I do think of quite fondly on those days. And so yeah, if I wasn't teaching I'd probably still be working as an archaeologist or in a public library somewhere."

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH MR WRIGHT

William Go - Budding Journalist

Where do you purchase your clothing?
"Clothing! Okay, Charles Tyrwhitt, that's online, I rate Charles Tyrwhitt. Suits, I get those from David Jones or Myers mostly, uh shoes, sometimes online, maybe even from the UK, or from New York or something like that because it's easy to order online these days."

Will you shave your head for charity?
"It would have to involve a large sum of money, okay, if you can raise a large sum of money…
How big we talking? What ballpark? How many figures? How many people are involved in this venture of money raising?"
I guess, like the whole school maybe?
"The whole school? If the whole school got a thousand bucks, I'll shave my head. I think that's doable. There's two thousand kids, if you can't get a thousand bucks out of two thousand kids, they don't care enough for me to shave my head."

What is your dream car?
"Dream car? Well until recently it was the Alfa 4C, I really like little red sports cars, and maybe a Posrche Taycan these days, cuz it's electric. Electric car, Porsche Taycan."

What celebrity do you think you look the most like?
"Christopher Reeve, now the sad part about that is I believe Christopher's dead, so looking like someone who's no longer with us is, y'know not great, I'm still clinging on, I'm nearly dead but not quite."

In a zombie apocalypse, you see Mrs Kenna, Mrs King and Mrs Dane before you. They've all been bitten. You have one antidote. Who do you save and why?
"God, that's a hard question. How do I answer… which of them do I save and why… Oh, I'm gonna save Mrs Dane, cuz she likes cricket. She likes cricket and I've never heard either Mrs King or Mrs Kenna talk about cricket, and I don't fair a grudge, but y'know I think you should know about cricket."

Do you have any interesting hobbies?
"No."

No hobbies?
"No, I have hobbies, but you said interesting ones! So, my favourite hobby is fly fishing, but I imagine you'll go, 'How nerdy is that?'. Uhm, I play cricket, that's also pretty nerdy. I'm playing cricket tomorrow (24/08). I think they're my only hobbies. For a long time I played tennis, but I'm too old and tired to play tennis as well as cricket."

If you didn't become a teacher, where do you think you'd be now?
"Oh, maybe an archaeologist.
Archaeologist, that's an interesting one.
I thought about that for a while.
What field of archaeology would you be studying?
Oh, well ancient near-east, maybe ancient Israel."

What is your favourite movie and why?
"I really, well, one of the movies I was most impacted by was Silence of the Lambs. I wouldn't say that was fun, but that hit me between the eyes, it's like, really… makes you sit up – scary. Not quite as blood and gore scary as other things, more psychologically scary. I felt terrified on behalf of Clarice as she descends the cellar looking for the serial killer."

ALBUM OF THE MONTH: "THE MISEDUCATION OF LAURYN HILL" - LAURYN HILL

Amal Perera - Local Music Enthusiast

A Bit of Background

I don't have much of a way with words, so if you don't mind, I think I'll quote directly from Pitchfork, as they summed it up better than I ever could: "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill is a declaration of independence. It is a breakup letter to the … routine of dealing with men who can't stop hurting the women who love them. And it is a love letter to the liberated self, the maternal self and to God." How's that for a summary, huh?

The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill was released on the 19th of August, 1998, during the Fugees' hiatus (for those unaware, Hill was a third of the Fugees), and only two years after their album, The Score. Written almost entirely by Hill herself, the concept album revolves around themes of love, relationship complexities, motherhood and faith, all conveyed to our ears with the background of sweet R&B and neo-soul, incorporating major aspects of hip-hop. And of course, we can't forget Ms Hill's soulful voice, which I don't think anyone could get sick of.

By far though, one of the biggest genre inspirations for this album was Reggae. Bob Marley and the Wailers' box set, **Songs of Freedom**, pushed the legacy of Bob Marley to the forefront of youth culture in the 90's, and Marley's theology revolved strongly around the notion that Black people were subject to centuries of oppression at the hands of the unrighteous, but that God was on the side of the oppressed. These words spoke to Hill during this time, and in fact, half of the album was recorded in Jamaica in Marley's own studio. Heck, the baby she was carrying (oh yeah, did I mention that she was pregnant while creating this masterpiece of an album?) was the son of Rohan Marley, son of Bob Marley himself.

The Album Itself

This album is amazing. There I said it. This is one of my favourite R&B slash soul slash hip hop slash reggae slash albums of all time. My opinion isn't exactly unique, but of course it's not. This album was not only a musical force to be reckoned with, but the meaning and story continued throughout the album spoke to leagues of people across the globe. **Miseducation** was placed at 10th on Rolling Stones" "voter-based greatest albums of all time", and came first on Apple Music's ranking of the greatest albums of all time. And if rankings by large, seemingly unaware companies seem irrelevant to you, Miseducation won the 1999 Grammy for Album of the Year and Best R&B Album, both of which are completely deserved titles. One recurring feature of the album is the motif of a classroom. We get excerpts here and there of a conversation going on between what appears to be a teacher and some students in a classroom, which couples well with the desk in the album cover too. These sections serve as effective breaks in the album, creating pauses and areas to relax. The album also features Carlos Santana, Mary J. Blige and D'Angelo, all three of whom provide great additions to the album, particularly Santana's on **To Zion**.

Conclusion

This record truly is one of the greatest, most influential and most impactful albums of the 20th century and is still celebrated and recognised to this day, as it most likely will for years and decades to come. I loved the powerful meaning behind this concept album, which you can hear as you listen to it. Which, by the way, I 100% recommend. You have to listen to this album at least once in your life. Miseducation proved to the world that Ms Lauryn Hill is one of the greatest musical artists of all time, and that it is through art that people can truly not only find freedom themselves, but share it with the world.

KNIGHTS OF THE PAST

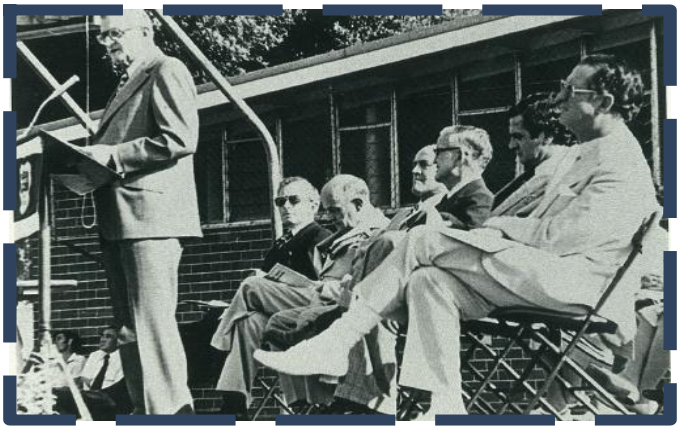
T. Davis - School Historian
Special Thanks to Chinmayee Agrawal

Castle Hill High School is an educational institution rich with history. From the principal portraits in the library to the 2063 time capsule next to G Block, there is evidence of our school's past everywhere if you look closely enough. But even considering such places of historical value, nowhere else quite tells the story of our school like our executive leadership.

Over the past 61 years, disregarding temporary placements, our school has seen eight principals and 19 deputy principals, but of these, no one has served in a senior executive capacity for as long as our first deputy principal, Mr. Alan Warner.

Warner served in the position of deputy principal from when the role was introduced to the school on the 28th of January 1964, following our school's period of boarding at Northmead High School prior to the completion of the school buildings, until his retirement in 1981.

According to both verbal testimony by many former students at the 60th Anniversary and the written testimony of a former library assistant, Warner was a "formidable" deputy principal, who when in his office "was surrounded by his several canes because part of his job was to administer punishment", with another student referring to it as "a wall of canes". But looking beyond his tendencies for corporal punishment, being our longest serving member of the senior executive at 17 years, it is clear that Warner had a special place in his heart for our small country town.



Above is a photograph of a school event in 1963, one year before Mr Warner started. The current principal at the time, Mr Eric Silk, was seated third from the right.

ANIMAL OF THE WEEK: THE CAECILIAN

Sebastian Chia

Overview
Caecilians may look like a type of mutant worm however they are classified as amphibians. There are about 200 species of caecilians. These amphibians are limbless and have 2 rows of teeth. They can vary in colour from dark grays to faint blues. They have two scent detecting tendrils. Their length ranges from 10 cm to 150cm.

Habitat
Caecilians inhabit moist tropical and subtropical regions of Southern and Central America, south and Southeast Asia and sub-saharan Africa. There is one species that lives in Trinidad and Tobago.

Diet
Caecilians use their tendrils to smell out prey. Their chosen prey are invertebrates such as worms, crickets and cockroaches. However, some aquatic species of caecilians also called rubber eels also include fish in their diet.

Life cycle
Unlike the other species of amphibians, most caecilians give birth to live young. The other species do lay eggs.

Fun fact
The female ringed caecilians grow a nutrite rich skin which their children eat. The mother regenerates the skin in a few days.

Solve the cypher to find out what is up next on Animal of the Week
Clue: the author's favourite number is the same as the number of days of the week.

Miulygozzfh micxyl

DAILY HOROSCOPE

Ozzo - Local Crystal Wielder

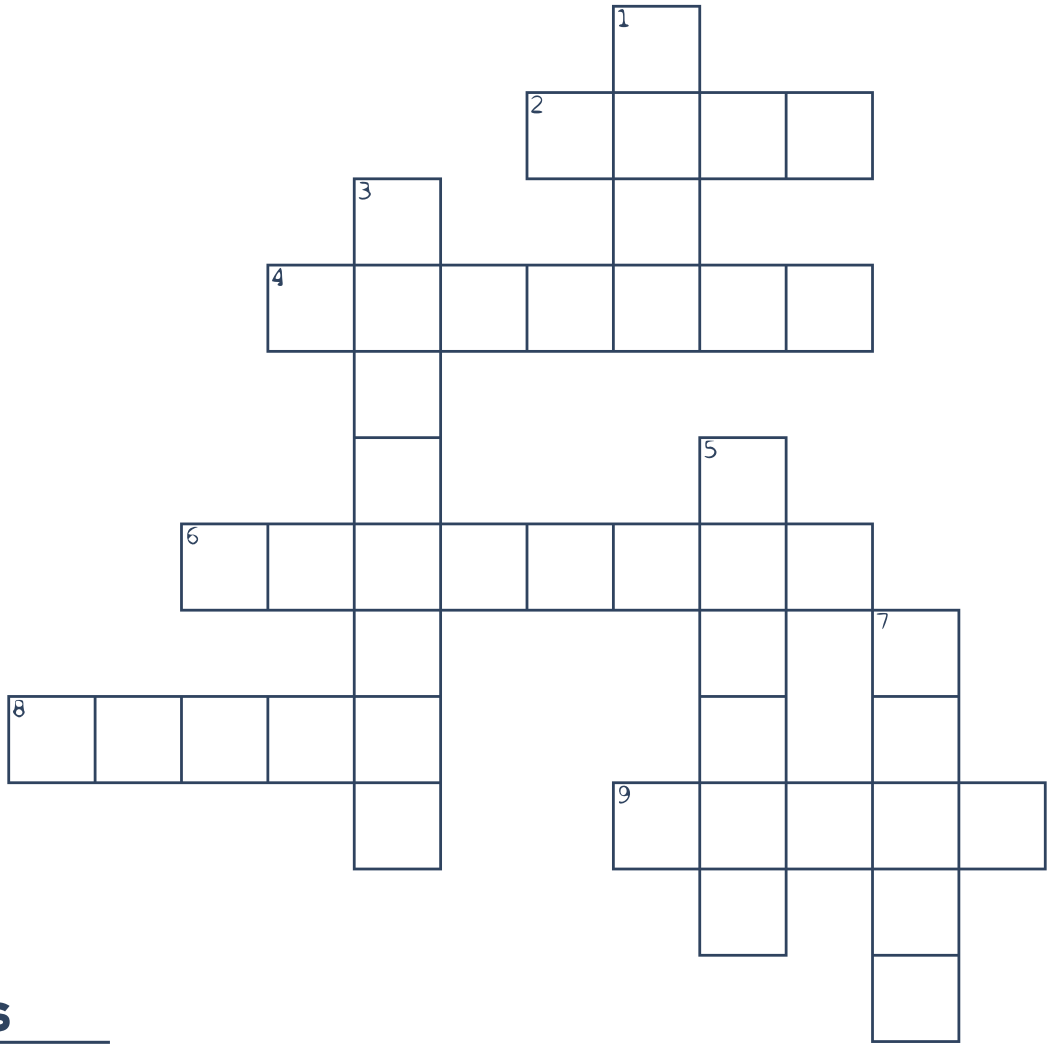
Aquarius Jan 20 - Feb 18 — Your moon position in Libra indicates a wave of good fortune and prosperity, but jealous eyes lurk all around your treasure, stay humble and walk away from negativity.

Pisces Feb 19 - Mar 20 — While you might need a lot of moral support to keep your chin up in the upcoming weeks, you might find just the right person to help you with that.

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 19 — Today, you wake up with the feeling you can move a mountain. You can't... maybe you can. That is for your actions to decide so stop procrastinating and get on with your work.

WATCH OUT
bro... huh?
OH FFFF

CROSSWORD



Across

2) The head teacher of science
4) Our current principal
6) A music teacher who shares a last name with a 2024 school captain
8) This teacher does the star student raffle nearly every assembly
9) This teacher loves to wear Nike shoes and Hawaiian shirts

Down

1) Our only male Japanese teacher
3) This teacher was once a marine biologist and now they teach science
5) One of the executive teachers who lead a crackdown on uniform
7) The head teacher of English

Leo Jul 23 - Aug 22	A sum of money above and beyond can come your way, whether you take this as a bonus or a lingering debt, it will benefit you in the short term... so accept and move on.
Virgo Aug 23 - Sep 22	You are going through distressing revelations, though it must look grim on the outside, remember that everything happens for a reason. Phoenixes rise from their ashes.
Libra Sep 23 - Oct 23	You have to stay calm, if someone is trying to spread negativity in your life or trying to demotivate you, simply stay away from them. Karma is stronger than you think.

FIND-A-WORD

R	L	M	P	C	P	T	A	D	S	G	K	A	E
E	L	P	C	R	A	D	I	O	T	A	N	C	L
A	S	S	E	M	B	L	Y	X	A	R	I	A	C
B	S	Y	Z	Q	I	X	T	B	R	D	G	S	E
Q	R	L	V	B	M	L	C	O	S	E	H	T	L
Z	C	H	R	G	N	X	W	O	T	N	T	L	E
L	F	O	Y	G	A	E	I	K	U	I	S	E	B
P	R	E	F	E	C	T	S	W	D	N	Q	C	R
P	F	Q	V	O	L	I	Q	E	E	G	U	A	A
B	Y	V	A	U	S	N	A	E	N	C	I	F	T
M	U	F	T	I	D	A	Y	K	T	L	L	E	I
Q	A	X	T	M	L	D	S	M	S	U	L	D	O
D	X	L	M	T	M	X	C	B	J	B	V	Y	N
E	X	A	M	W	E	E	K	O	Y	G	M	B	L

GARDENINGCLUB
PREFECTS
CELEBRATION
STARSTUDENTS

BOOKWEEK
ASSEMBLY
MUFTIDAY
EXAMWEEK

CASTLECAFE
KNIGHTSQUILL
SRC
PCRADIO

Scorpius
Oct 24 - Nov 21
— You might be feeling extremely exhausted these days, but listen to your body's needs and take a break, you deserve it.

Sagittarius
Nov 22 - Dec 21
— Someone new is entering your life. BEWARE, Mars is in the house of Aphrodite, whilst Venus is in the house of Hades.

Capricorn
Dec 22 - Jan 19
— The moon is in your fifth house, indicating a surge of emotions regarding any change that is about to happen. Remember change is a part of life, embrace it and grow from it.

WHO ARE WE?

Seeing as this is the inaugural issue of The Knight's Quill, you may be wondering what the point of it all is. We already have various forms of media to communicate school events, PC Radio and the newsletter just to name a few. What could we possibly provide? And to that we respond with one thing: a voice. As beloved and important as PC Radio and the newsletter are, they lack a real voice for students. And that is our role. We pledge to represent the unique perspectives of the students to the best of our ability. While we will try to work as best we can within the school system, we will offer a platform for diverse student perspectives. We will always be open to suggestions and feedback as at the end of the day we are not just the work of an individual, but the shared forum of all students and we will try our best to show that. With this first issue we hope that you see our vision and help us to truly represent all students. We'd also like to thank Ms. Best, for allowing and helping us to create and share this venue of creative expression with you.

Happy reading!